

FACT SHEET

Fall Protection

Falls are among the most common causes of serious work-related injuries and deaths. Supervisors and employees must take measures in their workplaces to prevent from falls from overhead platforms, elevated work stations or into holes in the floor and walls.

To prevent employees from being injured from falls, employers must:

- Guard every floor hole into which a worker can accidentally walk by use of a railing and toe board or a floor hole cover.
- Provide a guardrail and toe board around every open-sided platform, floor or runway that is 4 feet or higher off the ground or next level.
- Regardless of height, if a worker can fall into or onto dangerous machines or equipment (such as a conveyor belt), employers must provide guardrails and toe boards to prevent workers from falling and getting injured.
- Other means of fall protection that may be required on certain jobs include safety harness and line, safety nets, stair railings and handrails.

OSHA regulations require:

- Working conditions that are free from known dangers
- Floors in work areas that are clean and sanitary
- Workers be provided with required personal protective equipment at no cost
- Workers be trained about job hazards in a language that they can understand

The University of Utah has a written fall protection program that details how these requirements are fulfilled on the U campus. The fall protection program can be found on the EHS website here:

[U of U Fall Protection Program](#)

To learn more about the University of Utah's Fall Protection Program visit the EHS website, contact your supervisor, or call EHS at 801-581-6590.

